

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. Reconsideration based on the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action indicated that claims 11-17 are allowed and that claims 3, 4 and 6-10 indicate allowable subject matter.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 5 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,201,612 to Matsushiro et al. ("Matsushiro"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, the Office Action states that Matsushiro teaches an image processing method comprising inputting data, converting said input data into grayscale data, and converting part of the input data into grayscale data which specifies a grayscale value other than the specific grayscale value and supplying the converted grayscale data to said image output apparatus. Applicant respectfully submits that Matsushiro fails to teach or disclose all of the features recited in claim 1.

Specifically, Matsushiro fails to teach or disclose converting at least part of said input data into grayscale data which specifies a grayscale value other than the specific grayscale value and supplying the converted grayscale data into said image output apparatus. As set forth on page 3, lines 5-9 of the specification, the subject matter of claim 1 is directed to removing the grayscale value that would cause a defect, before supplying the converted grayscale data to the image output apparatus. Matsushiro merely discloses a means to select between two different types of quantization methods and supplying a bi-level image.

Matsushiro discloses that the binary processing 21 and the multi-value processing 11 are switched by using the selector 8 according to the image data. This is to switch [the binary processing 21 and the multi-value processing 11] according to the content of the input image,

and a problem such as defects in specified gradation of the output device, is not particularly considered and is not disclosed.

Contrarily, the claimed invention is directed to data processing which, when there is some problem in the display of the specified gradation of an output device, enhances the display without having the problems or defects according to that characteristic. The claimed invention performs processing that takes into account the characteristics of the output device.

Regarding claim 5, the Office Action states that Matsushiro teaches an image processing method comprising inputting data converting the input data into grayscale data by performing pseudo-half-tone processing and at least part of said input data is converted into grayscale data which specifies one of the grayscale values adjacent to said specific grayscale value. Applicant respectfully submits that Matsushiro fails to disclose or teach all of the features recited in claim 5.

Specifically, Matsushiro fails to disclose or teach the converted grayscale data which specifies one of the grayscale values adjacent to said specific grayscale value as recited in claim 5. As stated in the discussion regarding claim 1 above, Matsushiro merely discloses the selection of two different types of quantization.

Matsushiro discloses that the binary processing 21 and the multi-value processing 11 are switched by using the selector 8 according to the image data. This is to switch [the binary processing 21 and the multi-value processing 11] according to the content of the input image, and a problem such as defects in specified gradation of the output device, is not particularly considered and is not disclosed.

Contrarily, the claimed invention is directed to data processing which, when there is some problem in the display of the specified gradation of an output device, enhances the display without having the problems or defects according to that characteristic. The claimed invention performs processing that takes into account the characteristics of the output device.

Regarding claim 18, the Office Action asserts that Matsushiro teaches an image processing apparatus that comprises a conversion circuit that converts data indicating a grayscale of a pixel into grayscale data which specifies a grayscale of an image output apparatus, where said input data corresponds to a specific grayscale value which causes a defect in an output of said image output apparatus said conversion circuit convert at least part of said input data into grayscale data which specifies a grayscale value other than the specific grayscale value and supplies the converted grayscale data to said image output apparatus. The Applicant respectfully submits that Matsushiro fails to disclose or teach all the features recited in claim 18. Specifically, Matsushiro fails to disclose or teach the feature of a conversion circuit converts at least part of said input data into grayscale data which specifies a grayscale value other than the specific grayscale value. As set for on page 3, lines 5-9 of the specification, the subject matter of claim 18 is directed to removing the grayscale value that would cause a defect, before supplying the converted grayscale data to the image output apparatus. Matsushiro merely discloses selection of two different types of quantization methods.

Matsushiro discloses that the binary processing 21 and the multi-value processing 11 are switched by using the selector 8 according to the image data. This is to switch [the binary processing 21 and the multi-value processing 11] according to the content of the input image, and a problem such as defects in specified gradation of the output device, is not particularly considered and is not disclosed.

Contrarily, the claimed invention is directed to data processing which, when there is some problem in the display of the specified gradation of an output device, enhances the display without having the problems or defects according to that characteristic. The claimed invention performs processing that takes into account the characteristics of the output device.

Regarding the rejection of claims 19, 20, 21 and 22 the Office Action states that Matsushiro teaches an image processing method comprising inputting data converting the input data into grayscale data by performing pseudo-half-tone processing and at least part of said input data is converted into grayscale data which specifies one of the grayscale values adjacent to said specific grayscale value. Applicant respectfully submits that Matsushiro fails to disclose or teach all of the features recited in claims 19, 20, 21 and 22. Specifically, Matsushiro fails to disclose or teach the converted grayscale data which specifies one of the grayscale values adjacent to said specific grayscale value as recited in claims 19, 20, 21 and 22. As stated in the discussion regarding claim 1 above, Matsushiro merely discloses the selection of two different types of quantization.

Matsushiro discloses that the binary processing 21 and the multi-value processing 11 are switched by using the selector 8 according to the image data. This is to switch [the binary processing 21 and the multi-value processing 11] according to the content of the input image, and a problem such as defects in specified gradation of the output device, is not particularly considered and is not disclosed.

Contrarily, the claimed invention is directed to data processing which, when there is some problem in the display of the specified gradation of an output device, enhances the display without having the problems or defects according to that characteristic. The claimed invention performs processing that takes into account the characteristics of the output device.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Matsushiro fails to anticipate all of the features recited in claims 1-22. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 18-22 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants undersigned representatives at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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